Less Protective than Rubber

One should not expect to be able to waterproof leather footwear so that it will be the equal of rubber boots or overshoes for prolonged wear in water or slushy snow; yet substantial, properly made leather shoes and boots can be waterproofed with the preparations mentioned to protect the feet satisfactorily during stormy weather or for use on wet ground or pavements where there are no deep puddles. Waterproofed shoes and boots keep in the perspiration to a large extent. They are, however, less objectionable than rubber footwear in this respect.

Any oil or grease will darken, to some extent, the color of fair or light leathers. Furthermore, oily or greasy leather can not be polished satisfactorily.

To make street or every-day shoes fairly water resistant and yet capable of being polished, the oil or grease mixture may be carefully applied to the soles only, as with a brush, taking pains to get none of the mixture on the uppers. If lightly oiled with castor oil and left for from 12 to 24 hours, the uppers may be polished. The castor oil can be conveniently applied by means of a small wad of oiled cheesecloth, but care must be taken not to put on too much.

R. W. FREY and
H. P. HOLMAN.

FOREST Administration Policy Permits Wide Range of Private Use

The somewhat generally prevalent impression that national-forest lands are rather completely withdrawn from the customary forms of private use and occupancy is incorrect. The guiding principle of national-forest administration is the one laid down by former Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson, which was: "All the resources of national forests are for use, and this use must be brought about in a thoroughly prompt and businesslike manner, under such restrictions only as will insure the permanence of these resources." Under this principle all forms of land occupancy compatible with the purposes for which the national forests were established are allowed under permit.

Special uses of national-forest land that are of a public character or of general public benefit, and those related to some major use of national-forest products, such as logging, grazing, etc., usually are granted without charge. For privileges of an exclusive nature, or for the use, benefit, or profit of an individual or company, a reasonable annual fee is required. On June 30, 1927, 33,065 separate special uses of national-forest land were in effect, of which 14,882 were without charge and 18,237 subject to the payment of reasonable annual fees. For the fiscal year 1927 the payments for special uses of national-forest land amounted to $277,611.53.

Permit Issuing a Simple Process

The process of obtaining a permit is a simple one, and 95 per cent of the business is handled directly on the ground by the field officers of the Forest Service. Upon advice received by a forest officer, by letter or verbally, that a certain special use is desired, an examination is made to determine whether it will be the best use of the area and

not in conflict with public or other private interests. If so, the area is surveyed, marked, and mapped, a permit is prepared, and if the permit is not a free one the applicant is directed to remit the initial payment to the district fiscal agent. That having been done, the only further requirement, other than the observance of the terms of the permit, is to remit the annual rental when notified to do so.

Western livestock growers are the most numerous occupants of the national forests, with 5,577 pastures, 2,808 drift fences, 1,659 corrals, 798 stock-watering tanks, 44 dipping vats, 6 slaughterhouses, and 1 shearing plant, a total of 10,893 uses related to grazing alone. The stock growers also occupy a considerable proportion of the 971 cabins maintained under permit.

Recreationists constitute the next largest group of special-use permittees, with a total of 9,405 cases. Summer residences number 8,735, resorts and clubhouses 613, and hotels and roadhouses 52. There are three golf courses and tennis courts, and two playgrounds.

Fur Farms in National Forests

Fishing, hunting, and trapping on the national forests are governed by State law and require no permit from the Forest Service, but the various uses related to these activities number 1,346, to which may be added the 251 fur farms maintained under permit on national-forest land. The majority of the fur farms are in Alaska, where the small islands off the coast offer many advantages to the fox farmer; but the economic possibilities of raising muskrats, beaver, etc., under control in the Western States are leading to numerous requests for fur-farm permits. Fish hatcheries on national-forest land now number 87. The 59 fish canneries and salteries operated under permit in Alaska, while not sporting propositions, may properly be included in this group.

Most of the agricultural land within the national forests has been listed for entry under the forest homestead act, but some of the areas necessarily retained for other more important public uses have temporary values for crop production which are realized through the issuance of 1,405 permits. An allied branch of agriculture, the bee industry, is represented by 55 apiaries, while 12 persons have permits to operate old orchards on lands acquired by purchase under the Weeks law, and one operates a tree nursery.

National-forest lands are freely available for schools, of which there are 207; churches, which number 18; and cemeteries, of which there are 39. Stores, shops, and offices total 194. Other widely diversified forms of use, some of unique character, occur in small numbers, as for example, monuments, of which three are maintained on forest land under permit, and observatories, of which there are five.

Diversion of Water

The impounding and diversion of water necessitates the issuance of many permits. To begin with, 38 watersheds are under permit to the communities dependent upon them for municipal supplies. Permits for wells, springs, and windmills number 823, while the number of reservoirs is 1,109, and the number of ditches, conduits, pipe lines, etc., reaches the large total of 2,575. Water-power development must be

under license from the Federal Power Commission; consequently the 387 power projects within the national forests are not included in the special use returns.

There are 93 permits for common-carrier railroads, 6 for electric roads, and 78 for logging railroads, together with 29 for railroad-station grounds. Privately constructed roads, bridges, trails, and driveways to the number of 245 are authorized, of which three are toll roads to points of outstanding service interest for which public agencies were unprepared to supply highway facilities. Telephone lines are now indispensable to rural life and 785 are occupying forest lands, while 884 permits allow connection with and use of telephone lines constructed by the Forest Service.

The operation of many sawmills is authorized by the contracts under which national-forest timber is purchased, but there are in addition 531 sawmills operating under special-use permit, together with 28 log flumes, chutes, and skidways, and 13 lumber yards.

If a man wants to cut wild hay or operate a service station, or harvest the honey content of the flowering plants, or retire to a home remote from the hustle and bustle of modern life, or needs a site for some new enterprise, the chances are that the Department of Agriculture can meet his needs within the national forests in a thoroughly satisfactory way.

L. F. KNEIPP.

FRUIT and Vegetable Marketing Facilitated by Clearing Houses

Orderly and efficient distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables is one of the most difficult problems connected with the marketing of those commodities. A steady supply in consuming markets sufficient in volume to meet demand is essential to successful marketing. An oversupplied or glutted market frequently results in carload sales that bring freight charges only, or even less. Disorderly or haphazard distribution also results in undersupplied markets which are unable to secure adequate supplies regardless of demand.

With our recent rapidly increasing commercial production it has become necessary each year to widen the field of direct distribution and to supply more of the smaller cities direct from shipping point. Increased shipments and wider distribution have made the regular and adequate supplying of a large number of markets increasingly difficult.

The market news service on fruits and vegetables, inaugurated in 1915, made available to growers, shippers, and dealers of fresh fruits and vegetables a fund of valuable information on carload movements and market prices. For the first time dependable car-lot shipment information, including primary destinations and diversions, could be secured from a disinterested and authentic source. Awake to the realization of the need for a more orderly distribution, the cantaloupe industry in the Imperial Valley of California took advantage of this opportunity for securing authentic car-lot shipment information and the same season, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, inaugurated the first clearing-house work. From a rather experimental beginning the work developed into an efficient plan of furnishing information to shippers which has made possible the orderly distribution of from 12,000 to 15,000 cars yearly from the Imperial Valley during a period of about seven weeks.